

THE

American Freedman.

[Address, 76 John Street or P. O. Box 5,733.]

VOL. I.

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No. 7.

The American Freedmans Union Commission,

76 John Street, New York City.

"The object of this Commission is the relief, education, and elevation of the Freedmen of the United States, and to aid and co-operate with the people of the South, without distinction of race or color, in the improvement of their condition upon the basis of industry, education, freedom, and Christian morality. No school or depot of supplies shall be maintained from the benefits of which any shall be excluded because of color."—ART. II. CONSTITUTION.

..... President.	Rev. LYMAN ABBOTT, Gen. Sec.,	} 76 John St., N. Y. P. O. Box 5,733.
Rev. JOS. P. THOMPSON, D.D., N. Y.,	J. MILLER MCKIM, Cor. Sec.,	
WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, Boston,	GEO. C. WARD, Esq., Treas.,	
CHARLES G. HAMMOND, Chicago,	FRANCIS G. SHAW, New York, Chairman Ex. Com.	

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DISTRICT OFFICES—NORTH.

New England -	8 Studio Building, Boston	Rev. J. H. CHAPIN, Secretary.
New York -	76 John Street, New York	Rev. CRAMMOND KENNEDY, Secretary.
Pennsylvania -	434 Walnut Street, Philadelphia	ROBERT R. CORSON, Secretary.
Maryland -	5 and 7 Tyson's Building, Baltimore	Rev. F. ISRAEL, Secretary.
Northwestern -	25 Lombard Block, Chicago	Rev. H. B. HOLMES, Secretary.
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THE AMERICAN FREEDMAN.

76 JOHN STREET, N. Y. CITY.

This journal is published as the central organ of the Freedmans Union Commission, for the benefit of the Branches and the information of all who are interested in the work of education in the South.

Copies will be furnished *without charge* to any Branch of the Commission for distribution in connection with their organs, or for such other use as may best subserve the interests of their work. Communications should be addressed to the General Secretary, Rev. LYMAN ABBOTT, 76 John Street, New York City.

The following persons have promised occasional contributions to its pages

Maj.-Gen. HOWARD, Washington.	Rev. O. B. FROTHINGHAM, New York.
Hon. HUGH L. BOND, Baltimore.	Rev. E. H. CANFIELD, D.D., Brooklyn.
WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, Boston.	Rev. JOHN PARKMAN, Boston.
Prof. J. HAYEN, D.D., Chicago.	Rev. LEONARD BACON, D.D., New Haven.
Rev. R. J. PARVIN, Philadelphia.	

The American Freedman.

For the present the N. Y. Branch will avail itself of our pages as its means of communicating with the public. They are equally open to all the Branches for that purpose. Special reports from the New England, Pennsylvania, Baltimore, Cleveland, and Michigan Branches, with book notices, correspondence, and editorial matter, are crowded out of this number, a large portion of which we surrender to the publication of extracts from Mr. Alvord's report. The attention of our readers is called to the advertisements in this issue. A few will be hereafter inserted, the proceeds of which are appropriated exclusively to the cause.

Monthly Record of Executive Action.

[Our object in this article is to afford, for the information of the Branches, a condensed statement of the most important action of the Executive Officers during the preceding month.]

BALTIMORE MEETING.

A MEETING of the Commission is called, to be held in Baltimore on the second Wednesday in October. Preparations are being made for a good meeting. A full attendance of delegates from all the Branches is earnestly requested. A president will be elected. Delegates are requested to send their names to Rev. F. Israel, 5 and 7 Tyson's Block, Baltimore, Md. A meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at that place at 9½ o'clock A.M.

CANADIAN AGENCY.

Rev. D. C. Haynes has been appointed Financial Secretary for Canada and the British Provinces. He has entered upon the duties of his office. A public meeting has been held in Montreal, and a committee of leading citizens has been organized to co-operate with the Commission. The excitement produced by the Fenian agitation and the recent bank failures are obstacles to be overcome. In spite of them, however, our Canadian friends have already shown a strong interest in the work, and have given Mr. Haynes a warm welcome. We commend him and his cause to their most favorable consideration and their hearty sympathy.

ENGLAND.

Mr. Parvin has returned from England. A brief letter from him will be found in another column. He is expected to be present at the Baltimore meeting, and will then present a fuller report.

NORMAL SCHOOL AT RICHMOND.

Measures have already been taken for the establishment of a normal school at Richmond. \$2,500 have been appropriated for the purpose by the Executive Committee, from foreign funds. The colored people have pledged \$1,000 more. The Bureau will render assistance in providing building materials. But more funds are imperatively needed, in order to place this school on a good foundation and help the colored people in their attempts at self-education. For this purpose we need at once \$1,500 more.

WEST FLORIDA.

We are also applied to for assistance in the establishment of a similar school in Florida. The lack of funds to meet the great want pressing upon us alone prevents our immediate favorable response.

THE WEST.

In the West the resignations of Drs. Walden and Rust as secretaries have been accepted. The departmental system has been dissolved. Rev. Dr. Maxwell (late President of the Western Female Seminary of Cincinnati) has been appointed financial secretary, and Thomas Kennedy field secretary, of the Western Branch, which now occupies the States of Ohio and Indiana, and is preparing for a vigorous fall and winter campaign.

INFORMATION WANTED.—George W. Dennis, a worthy and enterprising citizen of San Francisco, wishes to obtain information of two brothers of his named *Richard* and *Andrew*, and a sister named *Cecilia*, all of whom when last heard from were slaves of Green K. Dennis, in Cowecha County, Georgia, a planter who formerly owned George also. He is also anxious to hear from his sister *Matilda*, held by William R. Baker, of Houston, Texas, and from his sister *Jane*, who was purchased by a German on the Brazos river.

Any one possessing information on this subject will confer a favor by communicating the same to J. M. McKim, Cor. Sec. A. F. U. C.

Friendly papers will please copy.

THE FREEDMEN AND THEIR SCHOOLS. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUREAU.

We have received from the Bureau of Refugees and Freedmen a report by J. W. Alvord, Inspector of Schools and Finances of Freedmen for January and July, 1866. This report gives full and reliable information of the work

carried on among the freedmen, and especially of their present educational condition. It shows a total of 975 schools, 1,405 teachers, 90,778 pupils. This does not include all the schools, especially night, private, and Sunday-schools. The following table gives the number of schools and teachers in the respective States, together with the average attendance and advancement of the pupils so far as reported :

STATES.	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers.	No. of Scholars.	Average Attendance.	No. in Alphabet.	No. in Arithmetic.	No. in Geography.	(Grammar and higher branches.
Virginia.....	123	200	11784	6981				
North Carolina.....	119	133	9384					
South Carolina.....	75	148	9017	6574	1725	4689	3631	222
Georgia.....	79	113	7792					
Florida.....	38	51	2963	1212	172	445	180	
Alabama.....	8	31	3328	3985	759	841	233	49
Mississippi.....	50	80	5407					
Louisiana.....	73	90	3389	2098				
Texas.....	90	43	4590					
Arkansas.....	59	39	1584	1309	172	217	497	13
Kansas.....	15	24	1500					
Missouri.....	38	46	2698					
Kentucky.....	35	53	4122	3215	165	258	196	196
Tennessee.....	42	123	9114	3279	1719	3214	1249	478
Maryland.....	86	101	8144	5645				
District of Columbia.....	74	132	6532	5004	799	1895	1708	182
Total.....	975	1405	90778					

* Studies reported in only five schools.

Of these schools about one-third have been supported by this Commission and its branches; more than half the teachers have been sustained by them.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Of the 132 teachers in this District, 41 are sustained by this Commission; about equally by the New England, New York, and Pennsylvania Branches. These schools are among the best in the South. "All the teachers seem to be earnest and hopeful." "Public examinations, just closed, have been thorough in all the branches taught, and, as the examining committee and gentlemen present have testified, give proof of excellent instruction and well-advanced scholarship."

"Eight or ten self-supporting schools, taught by colored teachers, numbering at least 500 scholars, are also in operation here in this District. Some of these appear remarkably well. There is an association of all the above teachers of these schools, with 100 members. In their monthly meetings reports are made, and questions of mutual interest discussed, and in this way the general character of the schools is constantly improved."

MARYLAND.

The work in this State is mainly carried on by the Baltimore Branch of this Commission. It now reports 84 schools, with over 3,000 pupils; over one-half of them in the city of Balti-

more. The colored people aided the country schools last year by paying \$2,000. The American Missionary Association have 5 schools in Maryland; the Society of Friends 1; besides which there are 7 schools in Baltimore under the management of the colored people, supported by their own money, and taught by them.

VIRGINIA.

Of the 200 teachers in this State, 104 are sustained by this Commission.

"Aside from the colored schools, I found at Richmond a very good school for indigent white children, under the care of the Freedmen's Union Commission, numbering 375 pupils, with 5 teachers, and 50 adults in an evening school. In addition to this, the old provost-marshal building (General Winder's former headquarters) is now being fitted up for 7 schools for poor white children, an industrial school, and a public reading-room. The lower and middle classes of the white population of the city favor this movement. In Petersburg and Fredericksburg, each, the Commission has a similar school; the former numbering 80, and the latter 150 pupils.

"The whole field of education in the State has been gradually enlarging, and schools are demanded in new localities. Some of the better class of white citizens favor the elevation of the negro, and a considerable number of earnest calls have been made by them for teachers and books. Only a portion of these, however, could be met, from lack of means in the hands of the benevolent associations; and the controlling classes of the State have neither the disposition nor the ability to undertake any part of this work, beyond a very little in Sunday-schools. It may be said that no practical sympathy or assistance from citizens is to be looked for at present in educating the freedmen, though the religious conventions of the State have passed resolutions acknowledging it to be their duty."

NORTH CAROLINA.

Of the 135 teachers in this State, 80 are sustained by the Commission. There is upon the whole an encouraging increase in the schools, and an improvement in the state of public sentiment toward them. On the late trial of Gen. Whittlesey, one of the most prominent citizens of Raleigh testified to his gratification at the progress which the colored children have made in their studies.

"An industrial school on Roanoke Island is in successful operation. In Raleigh and Wilmington there are schools for poor white children, numbering in both places 250 attendants."

These schools are both sustained by the Commission and its auxiliaries.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

"The Superintendent's Report from South Carolina is far more full and perfect than from any other State. On the 1st of June there

were seventy-five (75) schools, with one hundred and forty-eight (148) teachers, and nine thousand and seventeen (9,017) pupils, all making regular returns. Besides this, there are in the State, on plantations, and taught in a private way, usually by some colored person, at least thirty-eight schools, with forty teachers and three thousand pupils, making in the aggregate over twelve thousand (12,000) who are now in a progress of thorough instruction. This is an increase of two thousand (2,000) within the last six months.

"In the schools regularly reporting it is found that 6,256 are pure blacks, 3,049 are of mixed blood, and only eight hundred were free before the war. It may not be uninteresting to note that twenty-four purely white children are found in these schools.

"Of the 148 teachers, 90 are from the South; fifty-eight (58) are native Southerners, fifty (50) of these being colored persons."

Of these teachers, 120 are supported by this Commission.

"The whole cost of supporting the seventy-five schools regularly reported for the past year has been \$72,000—paid mainly by Northern associations—being about eight dollars for each pupil. The average cost of teachers has been \$40 per month. The expense of Northern teachers is greater than for Southern; but, in view of the much larger results, it is found more economical to employ them. And yet to the latter encouragement should be given, and efforts made to furnish them with thorough qualifications. The better class of colored youth of both sexes are very desirous of becoming teachers, and they are employed when sufficiently prepared."

GEORGIA.

"During the last six months the schools in Georgia have more than doubled their number of pupils, and under a vigorous superintendence are in a very satisfactory condition. Thirteen schools have been opened in new places during the last quarter, and a complete system is now organized throughout the State. The expenses are paid mainly by charity, but the freedmen, with their own labor and money, are making very commendable efforts in the education of themselves and children.

"Progress in study has almost universally been good, and it is estimated that not less than 3,000 pupils are now readers who six months ago scarcely knew the alphabet, while the influence brought to bear upon the moral improvement of both children and parents is beyond human calculation."

FLORIDA.

"The schools for colored children in this State are becoming more thoroughly organized, and are improving. Besides those under the patronage of the educational associations, which are managed in their usual efficient way, there has been started a system of State schools. They are established under the law passed by the last legislature. This law provides for a superintendent with assistants, and fixed salaries; and it is made their duty to establish

schools in all the counties of the State. Already twenty-five day-schools and sixty Sabbath-schools have been commenced. It is designed to extend this system not only in the towns, but out upon all the larger plantations. The interest manifested by the governor, and by many of the planters, in these schools, gives promise that in time they will be widely extended. The day-schools are mostly taught by colored men of some practical education and good morals, and the schools on the Sabbath by both black and white teachers. The number of the latter is increasing, and among the best families there are those willing to engage in the work."

Of the 51 teachers engaged in the schools in Florida, 20 are sustained by the New York Branch of this Commission. We have been recently appealed to by the State authorities for assistance in establishing a Normal School. Such schools are the great desideratum not only of that State but of the entire South. Five thousand dollars would enable us to aid in laying the foundation, in a normal school, of a good educational system in Florida.

ALABAMA.

The returns of education in this State show 31 teachers employed, of whom 28 are sustained by the Commission. The principal schools are at Huntsville, Montgomery, Athens, Stevenson, and Mobile. They are mainly sustained by the Western branches.

"The school at Mobile [supported by the N. W. Branch] bears a most rigid examination in all respects. It is well graded, its teachers thorough, and its discipline excellent. The progress made by the majority of the scholars is truly surprising. The school opened in May, 1865, and now there are classes in all the different Readers, from the Pictorial Primer to the Rhetorical Fifth Reader. One class is now in fractions, of Robinson's Arithmetic; one class in Intellectual Arithmetic, reciting in reduction; other classes are well advanced in English grammar and geography. The teachers publish a monthly paper called 'The Acorn.' This school receives help from the North, but each pupil, if able, is required to pay a small tuition fee of from 25 cents to \$1 25 per month—no child being excluded on account of poverty. The amount received from this tuition fee up to Jan. 1st, 1866, has been \$1,875 18."

There is much ground for encouragement in the state of public sentiment in Alabama. This is largely due to the efforts of Assistant Commissioner Swayne and Gov. Parsons, who have cordially co-operated in the work of relief and education, and whose combined influence has done very much to change the public sentiment of that State.

"A year ago the negro schools were a most cordially despised institution. Now, the leading white men are inaugurating measures for carry-

ing them on themselves. In the city of Montgomery, the son of a prominent citizen has a night-school of some 150 pupils, and he expects soon to open a day-school for colored children. In this work he has the co-operation of leading citizens. I have had, under my own care, two Sabbath-schools, comprising more than 500 scholars, where six young members of the Baptist church (white) assist as teachers, and I am informed that the white ladies propose to aid in our Sabbath-schools as soon as Northern teachers withdraw. Although there is unquestionably the alloy of prejudice and opposition to Northern ideas in this recently developed friendliness and zeal for the education of the negro, yet better motives have also their influence, and are destined to prevail."

MISSISSIPPI.

One-fourth of the teachers in this State are supported by the Commission. The opposition to educational movements under Northern auspices has been very considerable. This opposition has been manifested in false accusations by newspapers against the character of the teachers employed, and in some instances has broken out in acts of open violence. But public sentiment is improving, and prejudice is gradually but surely wearing away.

LOUISIANA.

"In this State a peculiar and very efficient system was inaugurated by Major-General Banks, in his General Order No. 38, March 22, 1864. The order created a board of education for freedmen for the Department of the Gulf, with power to establish common schools, employ teachers, erect school-houses, regulate the course of studies, and have generally the same authority that supervisors and trustees have in the Northern States. The purpose of the order is stated to be 'for the rudimentary instruction of the freedmen of the Department, placing within their reach those elements of knowledge which give greater intelligence and value to labor.' Almost immediately upon the above order a great system went into operation, and during the last two years there have been about one hundred and fifty schools for colored children established in this State, giving employment to two hundred and sixty-five teachers, and affording instruction to fourteen thousand children and five thousand adults, of which latter class more than one thousand were soldiers. There have been in New Orleans alone nineteen large schools, employing one hundred and four teachers, with an average attendance of five thousand seven hundred and twenty-four pupils; and more than fifty thousand colored pupils, as reported by the local superintendent, have been taught to read in that city and immediate vicinity."

This system has since been abrogated. The school-tax levied under Gen. Banks's order was suspended Nov. 7, 1865. This at once cut off the support of the schools. The consternation of the colored people was intense. Though paying their part of the ordinary public school tax, they petitioned Gen. Canby to levy an addi-

tional tax upon them for their own schools. This plan met with violent opposition. The rich creoles were unwilling to pay a double tax. The freedmen's organ, the *New Orleans Tribune*, objected to the principle of taxation without representation. Private schools of an inferior grade took the place of the public school system inaugurated by Gen. Banks. A system of taxation upon the wages of laborers for plantation schools proved unsuccessful. And at the present writing, the State of Louisiana, which at one time possessed the best educational system for the freedmen in the South, contains no other provisions for the wants of the people than such as are afforded by irregular and mainly mediocre private schools, taught by colored people.

ARKANSAS.

"The report of the Superintendent of Education for Arkansas gives a very favorable account of the progress made in that State. There, as everywhere else, the freedmen labor under the disadvantage of poverty and the lack of proper buildings in which to hold schools. One of the largest schools in Helena, for instance, is kept in an old building without a floor previously, used as a mule stable. A few miles below the city, a school is kept in a *hole in the ground*, merely an excavation under the block-house. The reason assigned for having the school under instead of in the house was that Gen. Pillow was unwilling to have the timbers cut through for windows. This, however, seems to be an exceptional case, as there is apparently a more friendly feeling than formerly on the part of the citizens generally towards schools for freedmen; or, there is less unfriendliness. The schools have continued without molestation during the quarter, the teachers have not been threatened or insulted, and no military has been called on for protection—facts which are worthy of note.

"The Northern Aid Societies have been fortunate in securing the confidence without exciting the prejudice of the late owners. To some extent a tuition fee has been received, but no scholars have been excluded who were unable to pay. This fee has never exceeded one dollar per month, while the expense of the Aid Commissions is not less than two dollars per month per scholar."

KANSAS.

"Kansas, though still included in the Department with Arkansas and Missouri, does not make very definite reports. We learn from the Assistant Commissioner that at the present time there are 15 schools, 24 teachers, and 1,500 pupils. This makes an increase of 50 per cent. during the last six months. The same general prosperity and public interest in these schools is manifested as in the past, with enlarged success. They are to a good degree self-supporting, but for some of them assistance has been received from the Freedmans Aid Commission."

KENTUCKY.

"Most of the schools are taught by colored

teachers, and mainly supported by subscriptions receive from freed people. Their progress has necessarily been slow, as such a system of education has been, of course, very incomplete. It was the best they could have. Until the announcement by the Honorable Secretary of State, on the 10th of December last, proclaiming the entire abolition of slavery in the United States, no colored child in the State was permitted to go to school.

"This State has received less assistance from the benevolent associations than almost any other, while the report shows there is equal eagerness among the freedmen to be taught; and that, though friends do not come forward to help, they evidently will not lie still and wait. Their efforts are put forth in all directions to secure the coveted blessing. All but five of the schools reported are called 'Independent Schools,' sustained almost entirely by the struggles of the colored people. Surely here is a fruitful field full of promise, and the appeal for aid should be liberally met by the benevolent societies of the North."

TENNESSEE.

"The accounts of the educational interests in the State of Tennessee are of the most cheering nature, showing an increased interest in the schools on the part of the freedmen, and a more settled determination to avail themselves of the privilege extended to them. Bvt. Maj.-Gen. C. B. Fisk, Assistant Commissioner, in forwarding the return, says:

"Excepting at Memphis, our schools have not been interrupted during the quarter. The examinations just closed indicate marked proficiency. The religious and benevolent organizations, by whom first class educational advantages are placed within the reach of freedmen 'hungering and thirsting' for knowledge, may well be encouraged in their labor of love. Their efforts should be increased tenfold for the year to come. The demand for schools and teachers is very great, and increasing. 'Come over and help us' is the cry from plantation, town, and city.

"The schools at Memphis were temporarily suspended by the bloody riot in May. Eight school-houses were burned, school furniture and books were given to the flames, and one teacher murdered. Immediate steps were taken to rebuild the school-houses, and re-establish the schools. A first-class graded high school will be opened at Memphis in September next."

Of the 125 teachers in this State, 65 are sustained by the Western and N. W. Branches of the Commission.

THE FREEDMEN'S DESIRE FOR EDUCATION.

The freedmen's eagerness to learn is attested by all who are familiar with them. The school-houses, however rough and uncomfortable, are crowded to overflowing. The threat of exclusion from the school for a single day is the severest to which the teacher need ordinarily resort. Notwithstanding the lack of an efficient school system and the absence of domestic government, the attendance of the freedmen's children upon

the schools provided for them compares favorably with that at the North. For example, in the District of Columbia the daily attendance at the white schools is 41 per cent.; in the colored schools, 75 per cent. In the State of New York daily attendance on the public schools averages 43 per cent., and reaches its maximum in Boston at 93 per cent. In the colored schools in the city of Memphis it is 72 per cent.; in Alabama 79 per cent.; in Virginia 82 per cent. The progress which the children make is equally encouraging; schools are rapidly improving in character as well as increasing in number.

THE FUTURE.

On the whole, Mr. Alvord's reports present a hopeful prospect for the future. "The people of the North are strongly seconding the educating efforts of this Bureau. Educational associations have increased in numbers and in arduous and well directed efforts: their several corps of teachers deserve all praise for self-sacrifice and fidelity." The Southern sentiment is improving; the recognition of a necessity for the education of the emancipated is rapidly increasing; the opposition to freedmen's schools gradually but certainly diminishes; Southern associations themselves begin to endorse a work from active participation in which they are only prevented by an absolute lack of means; and best of all, the freedmen manifest a resolute, persevering, invincible zeal for education which no obstacles can daunt or overcome. So steadily and surely, though, to our impatient hopes, slowly, dawns over the South the day of a better and brighter civilization.

THE ENGLISH FIELD.—REPORT OF REV. ROBERT J. PARVIN.

TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FREEDMEN'S UNION COMMISSION, NEW YORK:

GENTLEMEN: Having accepted your invitation to visit England as a representative of your Commission, and having received through the Corresponding Secretary of your Commission distinct instructions as to your views of the work delegated to me, I sailed for England on the 18th of April last, and immediately upon my arrival there engaged in the duties of my mission. After three months of services in England devoted to the interests of our American freed people, and to a setting forth of the character, the work, and the wants of your Commission, I took a trip, of less than a month's duration, on the Continent, and then, after a farewell meeting in London, returned to this

"goodly land" in the steamer (*Scotia*) leaving Liverpool on the 25th of August.

I avail myself now of the first opportunity afforded me in which to write to you, in the way of a brief report, of my work as your representative.

I reached England on Sunday evening, April 29th, and on Monday, 30th, reported in person to Mr. Jos. Simpson, at Eccles, near Manchester, and by letters to Mr. Arthur Albright, of Edgbaston, Birmingham. On the evening of May 4th I was presented to the Executive Committee of the "National Freedmen's Aid Union of Great Britain and Ireland," at their rooms in London, and, after an address to them explanatory of the mission entrusted to me and the Commission entrusting it, I was very cordially welcomed by the Executive Committee, and my services were solicited for work in co-operation with their national organization. Indeed, the ground was assumed by the Committee at that meeting that I had visited England at their request, and to join with them in their efforts to extend among the people of Great Britain clearer and fuller information as to the condition and needs of our American freedmen. I referred to the credentials and instructions furnished me by your Corresponding Secretary, Mr. McKim, and then agreed to the request of the Executive Committee of the N. F. A. Union, etc., to hold myself subject to their wishes and arrangements for work not inconsistent with my instructions submitted to them.

I delivered altogether about thirty addresses in the interest of our American freedmen, and nearly all of the meetings addressed were convened under the auspices of the National F. A. Union. These meetings called me over the length and the breadth of England, and in every place visited I found a few warm-hearted friends of our cause, and larger numbers quite willing to hear what we had to say. For notices of a number of the meetings, as well as for copies of the resolution very cordially endorsing both your Commission and your representative, I must beg leave to refer you to *The Freedmen's Aid Reporter* for May, June, July, and August, etc.

I am not prepared to report very large pecuniary results as flowing directly from the meetings thus held and the information extended; but I am well assured and very confident that your representation in England has been of important service in strengthening the interests of your Commission in the confidence and affection of its former friends there, whilst it has been the means of adding largely to the num-

ber of its friends, and thus of preparing the way for a more extended and more favorable reception of your appeals for aid in times of special need. Many questions were asked by the people respecting your work, and the enquiries were answered by me to the best of my ability. You are aware of certain "unexpected difficulties" which presented themselves with the very commencement of my mission work: the great financial crisis in London, the effects of which were speedily felt throughout the kingdom—the Reform struggle and its consequences—then the war on the Continent—and soon afterwards the appearance and ravages of the cholera. These trials filled men's minds with fear, and averted attention from the interests and the claims of the needy in our land. The London Secretary, Rev. Thomas Phillips, or Mr. Albright, one of the Honorary Secretaries, will communicate with you, however, as to the financial features of the mission.

It gives me pleasure to accept your invitation to be present at your next regular meeting, on the second Wednesday in October, to confer with you further as to the details of the work you gave me to do. I will only add here, that my reception and treatment in England were of the most pleasant character, and further, that my thanks are due to you and to your secretaries for the courtesy shown me, and the confidence placed in me whilst acting as your authorized representative.

With a heartfelt interest in the good work of the Commission,

I remain, gentlemen, respectfully yours,
ROBERT J. PARVIN.

It is but just at once to Mr. Parvin and to the Commission to say that he was not sent in any sense as a canvasser or to collect funds. This society has never thought it proper to assume the attitude of a beseecher for funds from our English friends. Mr. Parvin was simply commissioned, in response to urgent requests from England, to go abroad and co-operate with the friends of the freedmen in that country, by informing them of the freedmen's condition and wants—a service which he has performed with equal honor to himself and fidelity to the cause. We take great pleasure in laying before our readers as an evidence of the manner in which not only Mr. Parvin's labors were appreciated in England, but also in which this Commission is regarded since the union has been consummated, the following letter received from our English friends and co-laborers:

TO THE AMERICAN FREEDMANS UNION COMMISSION :

HONORED FELLOW CHRISTIAN PHILANTHROPISTS: Immediately before the return of Robert J. Parvin, of Cheltenham, Philadelphia, from his visit to this country, a social meeting of members of the National Freedmen's Aid Union of Great Britain and Ireland was specially convened to bid him farewell on the completion of his mission.

As chairman of that meeting, I was commissioned to express to your body our cordial and grateful sense of the important service which you had rendered to us, and to the cause of the freedmen, in appointing this, our justly valued friend and fellow-laborer, as your representative to this country. His knowledge of the whole subject, his skill and discretion in handling it, and the large and Christian spirit in which he has co-operated with British philanthropists of different sections of the church universal, have evinced the wisdom of your selection.

May his visit and labors serve to encourage us to increased exertions in this work and labor of love.

I can hardly conclude this communication without expressing the satisfaction with which our national Union has heard of the success of your Commission in binding together so large a portion of the Freedmen's Aid Associations in your land, and the sincere desire which we feel that the co-operation of the friends of the colored race on both sides of the Atlantic in one common Christian duty may, in addition to its immediate object, serve also to cement the harmony and brotherhood of the two great branches of the Anglo-Saxon family.

I remain yours, very respectfully,

JOHN HODGKIN.

LONDON, 1st of 9th month (Sept.), 1866.

The office of the National Freedmen's Aid Union is at No. 12 Bishopgate Without, London.

AN APPEAL.

THE following letter speaks for itself. We have forwarded it to our Western Branch, at Cincinnati, in whose field Texas properly belongs, and we earnestly appeal to our Western friends to give them the means to comply with the request of Mr. Wheelock. Truly the harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few :

GALVESTON, TEXAS, Sept. 12, 1866.

Rev. LYMAN ABBOTT, Gen. Sec. A. F. U. Com. :

DEAR SIR: By direction of Major-General J. B. Zittler, A. C. for Texas, I have the honor to inform you that the north-eastern portion of this State, being all that part lying east of the Trinity river and north of a line drawn from the Trinity through Crockett to the Sabine river, has been assigned to your organization, to be by them supplied with *free schools* and *teachers for the freedmen*.

This district contains about twenty thousand

square miles, comprising much of the fertile wheat and cotton lands, while its population was noted for its loyalty during the civil war.

The call for freedmen's schools all through that section is now loud and urgent.

While we have been enabled to supply the central portion of the State, this great district of country has not met with attention, owing to its great distance from and the difficulty of communicating with Galveston, the Bureau's headquarters.

The Bureau has organized here but one school, located at Marshall, with two teachers and an attendance of 125 pupils.

This school has hitherto been sustained by tuition fees, thereby excluding the poorest classes from the privilege of instruction. In case your association has the funds and the teachers wherewith to occupy this region, it is recommended that the teachers of the Marshall school be enrolled and sent by your body, and that all the schools to be founded shall be *free schools*.

To measurably supply the educational wants of this section, some sixty schools are required. Male instructors will, in most cases, succeed better than females. The most convenient centre for work will be at Marshall, whither the teachers can be forwarded *via* the Mississippi and Red rivers. It is earnestly hoped that your engagements are such as to permit you to turn a current of the great stream of philanthropy and beneficence towards this distant and needy State.

Hoping for an early reply, I remain very truly yours,

E. W. WHELOCK,

Supt. Freedmen's Schools, State of Texas.

RECEIPTS

OF THE

AMERICAN FREEDMANS UNION COMMISSION

FROM JULY 25 TO OCTOBER 5, 1866.

Sept. 6. Rec'd from Mr. S. M. Canfield of Guilford.....	\$5 00
" " Rec'd from A. E. Bartlett.....	2 00
" " Rec'd from Mrs. E. W. and Miss E. A. Havens, Portsmouth, N. H....	2 00
" 8. Rec'd from National Freedmen's Aid Union of Great Britain, £200.....	1,377 18
" 15. Rec'd from John Stewart Eonton, clo. and \$5 in gold.....	7 10
" 22. Rec'd from Methodist and Congregational Churches, Newbury, Vt....	18 63
" " Rec'd from Mr. Parvin, balance over after defraying his expenses to Europe, returned.....	138 00
" " Rec'd from O. C. Wheeler, General Agent Pacific Coast, collected by him.....	50 00
Oct. 1. Rec'd from Mrs. V. A., St. Albans, Vt.....	5 00
" 2. Rec'd from Birmingham and Midland Freedmen's Aid Association, £200.....	1,430 45
" 4. Rec'd from D. C. Haynes, Canada, coll. \$2.0 in gold.....	370 63
Total.....	\$3,405 99

GEORGE CABOT WARD, Treasurer.

Oct. 5, 1866.

New York Branch.

ORGANIZED FEBRUARY 22, 1862.—INCORPORATED MARCH 23, 1865.

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We commend the following gentlemen, in their respective districts, to the confidence, hospitality, and co-operation of all who desire the real reconstruction of the South on "the basis of Industry, Education, Freedom, and Christian Morality":

REV. WM. BRADLEY.
REV. JOHN BRADSHAW.
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TO THE AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE AND ORGANIZATION,
ROOM 22 BIBLE HOUSE, NEW YORK.

One copy of "THE AMERICAN FREEDMAN" will be sent to each Auxiliary Society. If the members find that they can use more to advantage, they will please apply to the Associate Member for their County, or to this Committee.

In order that a correct account may be kept of all the goods and moneys which are contributed by our Auxiliaries, their officers are respectfully requested to attend to the following directions: Send a dated list of the contents of each package, box, or barrel to this Committee by mail, and enclose a duplicate with the goods, which should be marked "E. C. Estes, 76 John Street, New York." All checks and drafts should be made payable to the order of Joseph B. Collins, Treasurer, and those from the Auxiliaries sent invariably to No. 22 Bible House.

MORE APPEALS FROM THE SOUTH.

THAT the freedmen are struggling to be self-supporting is proved by their efforts to establish schools. They cut the trees, hew the logs, and wedge them into a shape, which, rough and humble though it be, makes their hearts happier, and their eyes brighter; but a shadow covers them when they see it unoccupied by the expected teacher and their eager children. While they are praying, hoping, and waiting, many of their professed friends in the North are making false excuses—fearing that “my policy” or something else will interfere with the work of education, which lags for WANT OF MONEY.

DINWIDDIE Co., VA., Sept. 24, 1866.

Some person, a few days ago, sent me your journal, “*The American Freedman*,” and feeling much interest in the cause, I take the liberty to address (by request) a few lines to you, for the purpose of obtaining some assistance in building a house to be used as a church and school-house. Two colored men, William and Alexander Mumford, have given the land, and their society have been struggling all summer to erect the house, but have come to a stand-still. They have got it some four or five logs high, but can go no further. I think it is about thirty-two by forty feet. They have between seventy and eighty children, who attend the Sunday-school, under an arbor; and I believe that, if they could have a comfortable house this winter, they would have a goodly day-school of children and an evening school for adults. They have a colored preacher, by the name of Branch, who will teach the children, and the adults at night; I propose to aid in teaching the adults. The colored people feel the need of enlightenment, and the want of friends and money. If you can help them soon, before cold weather sets in, you will be doing *them*, and *us* who have to live among them, a great good.

I am a native of New York, but have lived here fourteen years. I never owned slaves, having been brought up among Quakers. I have been an out-and-out Union man from the beginning. I have been imprisoned twice; have suffered both in body and purse; and have been shot at a number of times. I have had as much cause to hate this people as any man, but did not harm *one* when I had the power, and now they *pretend* to think a good deal of me.

I am getting old; but, being a well-wisher to all mankind, I speak my honest convictions without fear or favor.

DAVID G. CARR.

WINTON, N. C., Sept. 12, 1866.

Your most polite letter of the 18th ult. was received in due time, and I would have replied to it before now, but you said you would write to me again in a few days. I have waited to receive it, and have not, so I write to you again. I now return my humble thanks to you for your deep and abiding interest that you have for me and my people, and I believe you are sincerely earnest. You said it would not be safe for a white teacher to come here before the first or middle of October. My

dear sir, I would be under ten thousand obligations to you, if you can and will send us one white teacher, the last of October or November. We want a white teacher for this place. Colored will do for the other places. Will you be so kind as to write me, and let me know what you can do for us. I have wrote for that young lady to go to Ahaskie. Please aid me in getting her. I know you can do me good, and I believe you will. The societies have done the State a great deal of good, but have not reached this county yet.

I pray the benevolent societies North to aid us. We need all the information we can get. Our only dependence is the North. We are a poor, degraded, and ignorant people, turned off with nothing. The Government, I think, should give each one a home on the premises they left. Their labor enabled their former masters to purchase large farms and tracts of land, and they should have a home on the land. I hope some provision may be made for my people yet. Pray that some window of heaven may be opened yet in our behalf.

Will you please write me immediately, and let me know what can be done for us at this place in the way of a white teacher, a pure Republican, a gentleman or lady? They can get good board in a nice family within half a mile of the school-house, and we have a good house for them all ready. I hope to hear from you shortly.

Your humble and obedient servant,

W. D. NEWSOME.

Mr. Newsome has the grace of importunity, and we hope will have the success of that sometimes troublesome virtue. He believes in having more than one iron in the fire, for another of his letters reached us from North Carolina via a country town in this State. Who says the colored people will never be self-supporting? They made their masters rich and proud and indolent. Now both must help themselves; and here's a specimen who not only takes care of “Number One,” but is also working for the good of other numbers:

DARLINGTON, S. C., Sept. 21, 1866.

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge the reception, this day, of thirteen boxes and seven barrels of clothing, forwarded to me by you, through the Quartermaster's Department, all in good order. You may depend upon the judicious distribution of the same, for I shall employ the agency of the teachers in my department to co-operate with me to that end.

I can not but anticipate much suffering among the old and disowned freed men and women, as well as *poor whites* (if anything more destitute and miserable than the negroes), this coming winter. Your timely grant will enable me to alleviate some of the distress, however, and I will, in behalf of “the poor and needy,” return you my thanks for the means thus put at my hands.

Without desiring to assume any of the prerogatives of R. Tomlinson, the Superintendent of Education of this State, knowing also the school necessities of my eight districts, may I

ask you if your Branch of the American Freedmans Union Commission will furnish me with a few teachers? I am fearful that the New England Branch (through the repeated expressions of their poverty) will not be able to supply me with what I may need.

I am at present wanting eight teachers, where schools of over sixty pupils each are awaiting them. I am very anxious concerning them, and the parents are begging me to send them the "school teacher."

In some of these places, they have already built school-houses, and houses for the teachers.

Will you help us? What we do must be done quickly; and never was there a field more extended than is spread out before us among the eager to learn in this once the farthest remove from civilization and humanity.

May I hope to hear from your chairman of the Teachers' Committee on this subject?

I am truly yours,

B. F. WHITTEMORE,

Assistant Superintendent of Education, S. C.

THE HOME FIELD.

CAYUGA COUNTY.

OUR friends in Auburn have no better opportunity of showing a radicalism that goes to the root of evil to exterminate it, and of a conservatism that preserves and develops all the good which it finds, than in aiding the movement to obtain the support of four teachers—\$2,000—for the next school year. This is a small sum from such a city for such a purpose. Let the ministers, editors, the humane and patriotic of all parties and denominations, unite in this attempt. No matter who is President, or what his policy may be, the millions of emancipated negroes must and shall be educated. This necessity is felt by the planters, for it appeals not only to their sectional pride but also to their interest. They see that the freedman works better when he knows that his children are at school. The temple, be it ever so humble, of which the schoolmarm is the goddess, is a source of inspiration and contentment which it pays to have on the plantation. He is trying to dodge a duty who refuses aid because our teachers are insecure. No political policy is interfering with our work in the South. We can have hundreds of thousands of pupils, teachers in abundance, and co-operation, or, at least, tolerance, from the more civilized Southerners. MONEY! MONEY! MONEY! is our cry, rather than SOLDIERS and BUREAUS. With it we can accomplish our designs, but without it they must fail. This cannot be denied. Therefore face the facts, and if you have a heart to give, do it freely; but if you have pretended a concern for the negro which you never felt in your pocket, be a man, and tell the truth.

WEEDSPORT, thanks to Chaplain Ives, Mr. Longley, and the good people of the place, appears in the roll of honor. Its representative will soon be at work in Jacksonville, Florida. We are sowing the seeds of education, virtue, and prosperity in the very furrows which were turned up by the ploughshare of war, and which are yet wet with the blood of the fallen. Cannot good excite us? Is human slaughter an essential condition of national enthusiasm? Cannot Christian women work as patiently and devotedly for the elevation of a race, and the

purest glory of their country, as for the sick and wounded of an army? Principle is character, but impulse is a creature of circumstances.

ESSEX COUNTY.

Small, isolated, and mountainous, it yet has a village that contributes for our work more than a dollar to every inhabitant. The following resolutions speak for themselves. We commend them to the careful perusal of members of societies in wealthier places, which are dying of inaction amidst the strongest reasons for activity.

"At a meeting of the Ladies' Crown Point Freedman's Union Society, auxiliary to the New York Branch Freedmans Union Commission, held July 23, 1866, for the purpose of expressing their sympathy and desire of co-operation with its most benevolent and Christian work, the following resolutions were adopted:

"1. *Resolved*, That we hail with grateful acknowledgments to God every enterprise and effort tending to elevate and Christianize that portion of our people so long held in cruel bondage, and robbed of all that life holds dear, and that we heartily recognize in the American Freedmans Union Commission such a beneficent and Christian work.

"2. *Resolved*, Therefore, that this society do heartily nominate Miss Zelma Renne, of Crown Point, N. Y., as their representative in the noble work of instruction and effort among the colored people of the Southern States, in which the said Commission is engaged.

"3. *Resolved*, That we, the members of this society, do hereby express our sympathy with Miss Renne in the truly noble mission which she is about to undertake, and pledge to her our hearty co-operation; that we will follow her with our kindest efforts and contributions to sustain her in the field of her labors, praying the Great Author of all good that her efforts as a teacher to benefit and elevate that wronged and much neglected people may be attended with abundant success, that finally we, with her, may rejoice in the Providence that has called us to this work, and may know assuredly that we have not labored in vain.

"MRS. S. E. BOGUE, President.

"MRS. LAURA HAMMOND, Secretary."

A NEW AGENT.

Rev. John Bradshaw, late the beloved pastor of the First Congregational church at Crown Point, and once Principal of the Ogdensburg Academy, has given up his charge, and entered our service. After visiting some of our schools in the South, he will make a thorough canvass of Franklin, Lewis, Clinton, Hamilton, and Essex counties. As Mr. Bradshaw is an earnest man, an effective speaker, and an agreeable companion, we expect much from his efforts, and bespeak him a cordial welcome from the friends of our cause in his field.

A NOBLE CITY.

When we told a gentleman that we had received a pledge from PORTLAND to sustain its twelve teachers under our auspices in the South till October 1, 1867, he exclaimed, while his eye kindled, and he nodded emphatically, "Well, I know a good many places that might be burned to advantage, if Portland after the fire is a sample."

THE FACTS OF THE CASE.

WE have found proofs of as wide a misapprehension of the principles on which our work is conducted as the circulation of *The Independent* which contained Rev. O. B. Frothingham's article on "Education and Religion." It has been inferred, and in too many cases gladly asserted, that, because teaching in Sunday-schools, and taking part in religious meetings, were not mentioned by Mr. Frothingham among the duties enjoined upon its teachers by the Commission, it therefore forbids them to do these things. Nothing could be further from the truth. Teachers are at liberty when out of school to do for the freed people just what is prompted by their consciences and their love of God and man. In school they teach just as they would in the North, and out of school they are under no restraints which would not bind them there. What would we think of a school committee that prohibited an employé from praying in a Baptist church, or exhorting among the Methodists? Why, that the Pope had a counterpart, that religious liberty was mocked, and, in milder terms, that the committee should mind its own business. Although Mr. Frothingham's article was not official, yet, in justice to him, we must ask that it be remembered that he was speaking of our employés as *teachers* in their official relations to the Commission, when he represented it as saying to them: "You are not missionaries, nor preachers, nor exhorters; you have nothing to do with churches, creeds, or sacraments; you are not to inculcate doctrinal opinions, or take part in sectarian propagandism of any kind." The same gentleman, however, distinctly affirms, that "most of those accepted are members of evangelical churches, and have consecrated themselves openly to Christ;" and that "all of them are obliged to bring evidence of the results in character of Christian faith and experience." But we leave the article to stand or fall on its own merits, as an individual expression; for its author is well able to speak for himself, and content ourselves with quoting a few sentences from official publications. In the Address on Education and Religion, which was prepared for the Commission by a special committee, we find the following:

"The education of the South, especially of the freedmen, is a truly religious work; none the less so because it is undenominational. Cousin rightly says: 'The less we desire our schools to be ecclesiastical, the more ought they to be Christian.' Called to this work not only by the claims of country and of humanity but also by the voice of God, recognizing it as His work, entering upon it in humble trust on Him, aiming by

it to render the subjects of our education better fitted to be not only citizens of the Republic but children of our Father in heaven, we desire the more that our schools may be truly Christian because they are uneclesiastical. For this purpose we aim to commission only teachers possessing the spirit of true religion, by which we do not mean persons of any particular doctrinal views, but such as are attracted to the work, not by curiosity, or love of adventure, or its compensation, but by a genuine spirit of love for God and man; for this purpose our schools are opened with such general religious exercises as our experience in the North proves it practicable for all Christians to unite in; for this purpose in all the schools instruction is afforded in the fundamental duties of the Christian religion, as inculcated in the command, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul and strength, and thy neighbor as thyself;' no less for this purpose do we jealously maintain their unsectarian character, not allowing the peculiar tenets of any particular denomination to be taught in the schools."

In their Instructions for the last school year, the New York and Pennsylvania Branches spoke in such explicit terms as these:

"All teachers, in addition to their regular work, are expected to interest themselves in the moral, religious, and social improvement of the families of their pupils, to visit them in their homes, to instruct the women and girls in sewing and domestic economy, to encourage and take part in religious meetings and Sunday-schools, but to avoid all peculiarly denominational or sectarian controversy."

It is not for our employés that this article has been written, for they know that their liberty has never been violated, and that they have been encouraged, each according to conscience, to minister when out of school to the spiritual advancement of the colored people; but it is for the public, who may be deceived by the misrepresentations of those who should never forget that Christ's work needs clean hands, and tongues that cannot lie. When it is remembered that last year the Commission sustained 700 teachers, the most of whom were devoted, competent, and actuated by the Christian spirit, it may be believed that their voluntary efforts in the cabin, the humble prayer-meeting, and the Sunday-school did more for the freed people than all the missionary societies put together. We pay for teaching, but our teachers give what money could not buy—spontaneous services for Christ's sake and His poor.

THE receipts of September will appear in the next number, and also a list of the teachers for this school year, with the locality of their schools. Reduction of clerical help in our office and the incorporation of the journal of our Branch with that of the Central Commission, must excuse the delay.

THE townships of Haverstraw and Stony Point were entitled to equal credit with the others in Rockland County which were named in our last number.

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